FBI - INTERROGATIONS OF OSWALD

Statements of Witnesses - Manning C. CLEMENTS
Deposition April 8, 1964, 7 H 318-22

Clements is a 23-year veteran of the FBI who had been assigned in Dallas for over 11 years.

He describes his function beginning with the time of the assassination as liaison. After the first interview of Dallas police and other law enforcement officers with Oswald, Clemants thought it would be a good idea to get a complete biographical statement. The others were in accord and Clements had this interview:

"Mr. Clements. I introduced myself to the officers whose names I do not believe that I got, and also introduced myself to Oswald. Exhibited my credentials and told him that I would like to obtain from him some physical description, background, biographical data. He was agreeable, and I began my interview with him.

Mr. Stern. Can you approximate the time of day that this occurred - roughly?

Mr. Clements. I would say the interview began roughly at 10 p.m." (p.320)

Here you have anything but the description given by Bookhout of Oswald's attitude toward being questioned.

And Clements' version of Oswald's attitude when questions were asked that he declined to answer (and specifically about the same Alek James Hidell card):

"Mr. Stern. What did he say about that card?

Mr. Clements. He declined to answer any questions as to the reason of his possession of it.

Mr. Stern. Were there any other questions you put to him that he refused to answer?

Mr. Clements. Toward the conclusion of the interview and after

he had been absent and returned I continued with the questions of past residence and past occupations. He responded to my questions. At a time when I asked him as to his present occupation he hesitated and told me that he thought the obtaining of his description and background information had become somewhat prolonged..." (p.321)

Perhaps a glimpse of Oswald's experience in the Soviet Unionis reflected by the conclusion of this paragraph: "(Mr. Clements) ... He stated there was a counterpart or a similar agency in Russia, that was using the soft touch, where the approach of a Russian agency would be different, but the tactics would be the same."

Nonetheless, Oswald continued to answer Clements' questions.

Again on Oswald's attitude:

"Mr. Stern. Did he seem hostile or resentful or irritated by the fact that you were an FBI agent?

Mr. Clements. He did not state that, if that were the case. He was courteous, responsive as to any question. Volunteered little information." (p.321)